Summer Frocks All Frills and Ruffling.

THE SHIRT WAIST COSTUMES.

They Are an Important Part of the Season's Frocks.

All Varieties of Laces Used-Well Made Imitations-Elaborate Decoration of the Sheer Fabrics-Linen Coats and Mantles-Dressy and Plainer Shirt Walst Suits of Linen-The New Turnover Collars a Feature of the Summer Gowns-Pretty Frocks of Dimity.

Shopping is wearisome work in these early spring days. Even the more exclusive shops are crowded, and in the popular large shops the crowd assumes discouraging proportions.

very centre of interest in each shop is the lace and embroidery department. Around lace counters and embroidery counters the crowd swirls from the time the shop is opened until the doors are closed at night. Wemen stand four deep and beg

got the Val. book?" singly and to chorus

and struggle heroically to be polite to customers whose nerves are frayed at the, edges through long waiting and who irrationally credit the annoyance to the

"If I find the angel choir has its robes trimmed in Val. lace, sure I'll refuse to sing," grumbled one saleswoman, the other

day. "It's always bad enough, but this

year the women are stark crazy on Val.

What they're doing with all of it I don't

But a glance at the summer model frocks

and at the fashion journals shows one

clearly enough what the women are doing

with the laces. The flounces, frills, ruches

Schus of the summer frocks demand

lace of all widths, and among wash laces, Valencier nea is, of course, first favorite,

though the extravagant use of it is by no

means confined to the sphere of the tub

frock. Cottons, silks, even wools are trimmed profusely in this lace, and in antici-pation of the demand manufacturers have

supplied imitations of real Valenciennes

more nearly perfect than any heretofore

n the market. German lace has the

preference because of its superior wearing very fine batiste and swiss qualities, and

qualities, but in both German and Italian , this material is one of the most desirable

of the best qualities the imitation of net | of the summer frock materials.

overworked girl behind the counter.

s connoisseur could tell upon casual exami-nation which is real and which is imitation. The woman who is not familiar with the eal would do well to examine some of it



before buying the imitation, in order that she may select a good mesh and design, for many of the imitation patterns, though pretty in themselves, bear no resemblance to the real lace.

In broad flouncing, edging, insertion o be waited upon.

Tiredfaced saleswomen chant "Who's is particularly good and the improve-

ment in these lines is more noticeable than

able degree of success. All-over lace, dyed to match the material of the frock, is much

used for blouses to be worn with three-piece

and the dyeing of Valenciennes for trim-

ming purposes is one of the most pronounced

There is, too, a tremendous demand for the imitation Mechlin, for Alençon and for

Chantilly, and many of these laces are

The mingling of several kinds of lace upon one gown is as common this spring as

it was all last season, but combinations of

batiste embroidery and lace are more in

evidence than ever before. The embroi-

deries are beautiful beyond possibility of

artistic triumphs of the season and, though

beauty, they are being sold in enormous

quantities. Already it is very difficult to

obtain the popular broderie anglaise in the

They are, without doubt, the greatest

also dyed before they are used.

fads of the season.

blouse which had such vogue last year, able tub possibilities of the material.

All-over embroidery, flouncings of vary-ing widths, insertion of several widths and plain batiste, lawn, &c., exactly matching the foundation of the embroidery, carry out one design, and may be bought in quantities suiting the purchaser instead of in hard-and-fast robe combinations, but such materials are selling rapidly and the

assortment is now comparatively small. Insertions with scalloped or waving edges are extremely popular, but the straight edge insertions are less expen-sive, and some of the very handsomest insertions come in a line of the modish raised embroidery done upon a strip of plain batiste and without definite insertion edge of any sort. The strip is set in with lines of lace or tucks, and looks as though the embroidery were done upon the frock itself rather than upon a separate trimming.

Blouses of all-over batiste embroidered. finished with frillings of lace at throat and wrists, are among the prettiest of the sheer variety, though much easier to make than the lingerie blouses elaborated by hand work. Eyelet or English embroidery in white buttonholing on batiste in pale blue, pink and other light colors, makes a most effective blouse material.

Medallions of embroidery or lace are legion and among them are many of heavy linen embroidered in the raised patterns. Eyelet embroidery on this same heavy linen appears in bands, medallions, &c., for the trimming of the linen frocks. These same linen frocks are very in

stitched and tailored, but made to be worn as separate coats over summer morning upon the back of a waist whose front is plaited. The pointed-back yoke is usually

becoming and makes an acceptable varia-As for the linen frocks, it is hopeless to tion upon the plain French back. attempt a classification of them. Fine inen almost as sheer as lawn, coarse, heavy shirt waist costumes are the linen frocks linen with nub effect, crash linens, linen of with fancy collars or yokes and some fine or coarse étamine weave-all are skirt trimming, and the linen coat and equally desirable and all are in demand.

skirt suits. Several good linen models The linen étamine, new this season, are illustrated among the cuts, and all are promises to give excellent satisfaction. simple enough to be easily copied. It falls more softly than the other heavy linens, and reports from women who have been sporting their new summer frocks in the South say that the new material is far more satisfactory than linens of earlier seasons, in that it does not shrink so shockingly if actually consigned to the

The duck or piqué or close-woven linen skirt is prone to vagaries when laundered, but one well known maker of shirt waists and shirt waist suits says that his customers tell him the linen etamine skirts stretch rather than shrink.

The simple linen shirt waist suits trimmed



A trifle more dressy than the severe

One frock of fine white linen has its skirt

plain save for groups of vertical tucks

running from the waistband half way to the

knees, but the blouse is embellished by a

shaped collar falling wide over the shoulders

and ending in front in two tabs which cross

each other over a scarf fall of finest batiste

There is a little guimpe of the embroidery

embroidery.

and the undersleeves are of batiste and embroidery. The deep collar and the flowing sleeves of linen are embroidered in

large wafer dots of porcelain blue.

A second linen frock has one of the popular surplice fronts, a deep collar of linen openwork embroidery and a broad band of the same embroidery let into the skirt between groups of horizontal tucks. Deep, close cuffs are also of the embroidery.

Then there is a coarse, rough linen cosume with plaited skirt and blouse bolero, rimmed in bands of smooth linen, embroidered in large dots.

The soft, cool shades of blue and of green are especially good in linen, as is a genuine ouff, which has made its appearance this year, and some of the smartest of these colored linens are trimmed only in narrow pipings of white and white pearl buttons. Stocks of the colored linen, piped in white to match the frock, are made for wear with these suits, but there are, too, innumerable white turnovers and embroidered linen collars which finish such a waist daintily.

The woman who doesn't have several of her summer frocks planned so that the new turnovers and separate collars may be worn with them will regret it. To be sure, it is a pleasant thing to have one's frock finished at the neck so that it requires no bother and debate to complete the costume; but the lingerie neckwear and cuffs of this season are so lovely that they might give cachet to even the simplest of frocks.

Many of the pretty turnover cuffs are of exaggerated width, which makes them impracticable for the narrow wristband. but they are suited to the deep, close sleeve cuffs and the sleeve full above the elbow and narrowing down till it is close fitting on the lower arm.

The shirt waist suit is fashioned not only of linen, but also of silk, lightweight wool and a multitude of cottons, and will, apparently, be worn more this summer than ever before. In many instances the shirt waist suit, so-called, is far from consistent



severity, but for morning wear the shirt waist frock of simplest type is particularly smart, provided it be well worn and the

belt and neckwear be appropriate. One fashionable shirt waist maker has given his approval to dimity this season, and among his many models are shirt waist frocks of barred dimity, made after the plainest models with plaited skirts and blouses and no trace of trimming save dainty lingerie collars and cuffs. These dimity frocks are delightfully cool and fresh, launder like a kerchief and are alto gether most satisfactory morning frocks

for the dog days. Lawn, madras, gingham, percale, &c., are made up in the same manner and really deserve the name of tub gowns. Many women are buying the charming blouses of lawn, embroidered, lace trimmed, &c., which are to be found in all the shops, and are having simple skirts made of lawn

to match that in the blouse. These skirts instead of being plaited are often slightly fulled into the band and have one or two flounces at the bottom. As it is seldom possible to match the trimming of the blouse, the lawn skirts are trimmed simply with tucks and are practicable for wear with any of the sheer white blouses of which every woman is likely

to have a supply this season. Some shops show such skirts ready made, but a majority of these are of coarse lawn

The subject of the sheer summer frocks is a fascinating one, but the summer outfit cannot be entirely given over to wash fabrics and diaphanous costumes. Street

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frocks of wool, afternoon costumes, evening gowns all demand consideration and the few mild days of the last week make the spring street frock seem a matter for immediate attention.

Tailors are turning out innumerable coat and skirt costumes, the coats varying from long to short, but with a decided preponderance of the short. The close fitting bolero, the loose bolero and the fitted coat reaching to a line just below the hip are all in favor, and the blouse bolero has not vanished, although it is not so popular as it once was. Braid trimming is first choice, but there is often a touch of em broidery added, and strappings, stitchings

buttons and pipings have their places. The skirt clears the ground and fits smoothly over the hips, but through some arrangement of plaits must attain much fulness around the bottom. Almost all of these tailored skirts are unlined, and many of them have hip yokes or simulated hip yokes, though everywhere save in the skirt of the tailored walking frock the hip yoke has unquestionably lost caste.

The very light colored homespuns are much to the fore, all the canvas weaves firm enough for tailored treatment are to have great vogue, mohairs are liked and a long line of fine cloths, serges and cheviots



is shown. Taffeta is used lavishly in combination with cloth, serge, &c., upon some of the models, and whole coat and skirt suits of taffeta will be much worn later: but the taffeta tailor suit usually belongs to the dressier type of tailor costume, which fails utterly to correspond to the old time idea of a tailor frock and is quite likely to break out into frivolity of lace and ribbon and flaming folds.

Bodice and skirt gowns worn with some little wrap to match are serious rivals to this same dressy tailor frock this season and will be the favorite costumes for afternoon street wear. Among their materials the voiles and silks are in a vast majority, but there are a number of soft, fine, silk and wool mixtures which take a share of the honors.

Little Russian Pottery Outside of Russia. From the China, Glass and Pottery Review. Very little is known in this country of

Russian pottery. In St. Petersburg there is a royal porcelain manufactory where exceedingly fine and artistic ware is produced, though it is almost impossible to bring samples out of that country, which accounts for its great scarcity in Europe and America. The pottery is of a bold, semi-barbaric character, with arabesque decorations, consisting of heads of animals in relief, &c. The industry is carried on rather sparingly, and, aside from this royal porcelain plant, there is but little attention given to the production of ceramic wares.

In the Pennsylvania Museum, of which Edwin Atlee Barber is curator, can be seen a case of decorated Russian pottery, which was originally exhibited at the Centennial exhibition in 1876. This pottery is of a buff or orange colored clay, and the decorations are in relief and highly colored. The pieces are in the shape of coffee pots, vases, plaques &c. Another variety is decorated with conventionalized animals, painted in enamelled colors. There is also in this museum a single piece of fine porcelain, artistically decorated, consisting of a cup and saucer the product of one of the modern Russian potteries. ! Souvenirs, but Without Hostess's Intention From the Philadelphia Press. Considerable quiet laughter has been

going on among the guests at a luncheon given by a young West Philadelphia bride the other day to the attendants at her wedding. There had been among the hostess's presents at the time of her marriage a par-ticularly beautiful set of spoons and while she had no occasion to use them at this particular luncheon she thought that she would put one beside each cover for-well, just for instance.

Unfortunately, however, there was one stranger in the merry little company which sat down about the table-a pretty, outspoken, somewhat "gushy" young woman from the West. And it was she who caused all the trouble.

If the trouble.

As the luncheon neared its end and it became apparent that the spoons were not for use, she kept eying the one at her place and finally she burst forth with this flash of inspiration:
"These spoons — what perfectly lovely

souvenirs!"

The chorus of praise was immediately taken up by all about the board. The confused hostess found explanation impossible and every guest went away from the house with one of those precious spoons.

They All Lived in Perfect Peace.

From the Washington Post. From the Washington Post.

"I spent one summer with missionary friends in Utah," said a woman, "and we lived in a house which had been built by a Mormon of the elder day. It was an eight room house in a little village, and it was exactly square, with four rooms on each floor, and four staircases. We were told that the Mormon who built it had had four wives. and a downstairs room, and a flight of stairs for the use of herself and her children. The for the use of herself and her children. The lower rooms did not communicate with each other, and neither did the upper ones till we had doors cut through for the sake of convenience. The Mormons I met, both men and women, all assured me that plural wives live together in perfect peace and harmony, but whenever I think of the four staircases in that house I can't help wondering if the patriarch who built the house didn't have troubles of his own.

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linen falls loosely from the shoulders and is embroidered in the openwork anglaise fashion, a soft pink taffeta lining showing through the open work. Heavy linen lace and dainty Valenciennes are both called into use for trimming this coat, which has a deep cape collar and opens down the front to show many frills of three-inch Valenciennes set upon the pink silk lining. Another loose linen coat, shorter, is inset lavishly with heavy lace and lined with a beautiful flowered silk, which has design of blurred pink roses and faint

rate of afternoon costumes. Costs and

One handsome three-quarter coat of

blue ribbon festoons on a white gown. A little mantle of white linen, whose full flowing sleeves fall in with the full they are expensive in proportion to their body to produce a cape effect, is ornamented by a handsome linen passementerie. from which at intervals hang many little ball pendants, and the loose lining is of pink taffeta with little pinked rufflee set

around its edges

with stitching or with piping of contrasting linen, are being made up by thousands in all colors, white and the various shades of blue being preferred, as usual. The skirts of these costumes are usually plaited in some manner, the plaits being portant items in the summer girl's outfit stitched down as far as the knees. Aninein the narrow edgings and insertions which and range all the way from the simplest have always been copied with a consider- of shirt waist frocks to the most elabogore side-plait skirt, with ample fulness at

little wraps are also made of the heavy most of its length. Box plaits, though more difficult for linens and trimmed so elaborately that both seamstress and laundress to handle. costumes, in place of the heavier lace one loses sight altogether of the originare liked, and the broad double box plait down the front and the back, with side plaits around the sides, is a favorite model. The side plaits may run to the waistband. but often begin beneath a shallow hip yoke with ends under the front and back

with cross stitch or Bulgarian embroideries

the bottom, is easily laundered if stitched for

box plaits. The tight-fitting habit back, which was exploited even in linen and piqué, has mercifully disappeared, and inverted plaits giving generous fulness are the rule where the broad stitched box plait is not used.

A majority of the blouses for these linen shirt waist costumes are made with the broad-front side-plait effect, the outside plait coming well out over the shoulder Epaulette straps are upon many



of these shirt waists and an epaulette effect is often given by cutting the sleeve with a box plait continuation which runs up the shoulder to the collar like an epaulette and is stitched flat on its edges.

Box-plaited shirt waists and shirt waists with yokes of various shapes are worn, but the simple shirt waist is preferred by the most prominent makers. They have the There are plainer linen coats, severely | French plain backs, or are plaited to match

and carelessly made.

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